

MINUTES

Seattle Human Rights Commission Meeting

Thursday, September 1, 2011, 6:00–8:00 p.m.

City Hall - Boards and Commissions Room

Commissioners Present: Jesse Aspuria, Damien Carter, Nika Dahlbacka, Andrew Lewis, Merri Ann Osborne, Joshua Marshall, Andrea Negrete, Marty Penner, Mike Peters, Michael Plengrat, Mica Powers, Roslyn Solomon, Christopher Stearns, Jennifer Yogi

Commissioners by Telephone: Jessica Andrade

SOCR Staff Present: Chenelle Love, Felicia Yearwood

Guests: Edlira Kuka, Robert Duris

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m.

Public Comment: Robert Duris spoke about the shooting of John T. Williams

Approval of Minutes: August 2011 minutes were approved as amended

SOCR report:

- SOCR has over 100 open cases; 20 closures and 27 intakes last month.
- Two reasonable cause cases, both housing, which might lead to hearings.
- The Taylor v Melton case is scheduled for hearing on October 5th.
- City Council is expected to vote on the Paid Sick Leave Proposal on September 12th.
- Enforcement is developing an outline for an appeals training at the retreat.

Strategy Discussion:

- Martin Penner and Mike Peters posed two central questions:
 1. What is the Commission asked to do? and
 2. What are Commissioners best able to do?

- Discussion ensued regarding the need for Commissioners to develop human rights expertise in order to fulfill the Commission's advisory role.

MOTION: To establish an ad hoc committee charged with drafting a proposal to present at the retreat. **ACTION: PASSED**

- Martin Penner, Damien Carter, Andrew Lewis, and Nika Dahlbacka volunteered to serve on the ad hoc committee.

Election Results:

- Chris Stearns, Chair
- Damien Carter, Vice Chair
- Joshua Marshall, Secretary
- Jennifer Yogi, Appeals Committee Chair

New Business:

- The UW Evans School of Public Affairs seeks proposals for graduate student projects.

MOTION: To propose creation of a human rights analysis tool as a graduate student research project to the Evans School of Public Affairs and allocate \$600 toward the \$1250 fee. **ACTION: PASSED**

- Merri Ann suggested creating a history of the Human Rights Commission
- Roslyn and Chris volunteered to serve on the retreat planning committee. Felicia will survey commissioners to find a date for the retreat.

Committee Reports:

none

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.